

3^d.

THE

Medicine only

A R T

Of Getting into

Practice in Physick,

Here at present in

L O N D O N.

I N A

L E T T E R

To that very ingenious and most

Learned PHYSICIAN,

(Lately come to Town)

Dr. TIMOTHY VANBUSTLE,

M. D. A B C, &c. *h*

L O N D O N:

Printed, and sold by J. PEELE, at Lock's-head,
in Pater-Noster-Row. 1722.

Novemb.





T H E

Publisher to the READER.



THE following Letter having by a very particular Accident fallen into my Hands: I upon reading the same, could not but be of Opinion, that the publishing it would be very acceptable to the Publick, both from the newness of the Subject, and the pleasant Manner of Writing the same. 'Tis somewhat uncertain who is the Author thereof; some have guess'd it to have been writ by Dr. K—g, who writ the Account of the useful Transactions or Voyage to Cajamai, &c. But others do think it of a latter

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ter Date, and would Father it upon Dr. S—t, as they did the 'Pamphlet of the Precedency of Law and Physick, &c. But for my own Part, I know little else than that I have been told by some who pretend to know, that the Stile and Manner of writing, exactly answers that of the ingenious Dr. Slyeman, one who I am told, keeps himself very private; and therefor possibly not very much known to the Town. And tho' it may at first seem somewhat inconsistent, that a Man not much in Vogue or Practice, should pretend to treat and teach the manner of getting into Practice, yet if duly considered, this needs not seem so very strange, since possibly neither Avarice, nor his natural Temper, do push him on to great hurry of Business, or perhaps the Methods now so necessary to introduce him, may not Suit his
Geni-

to the READER.

Genius: Besides that, many Authors have writ well on Matrimony, tho' not in that State, as others have of the things they were not in Possession of; who writ better than the Wise Erasmus in the praise of Folly? Isocrates upon the excellencies of Tyranny; and Glauco on Injustice. The Corruption and Vitiating of the Age, does probably encourage those little Finesses and Art, our Author here observes in his Letter; since Pomp, cunning Flattery, Fawning, Forwardness, great Pretence, and great Show, are more constant Companions to Luxury and Corruption than Truth, Justice, real Knowledge or true Merit, which still appears most plain and simple. Luxury and Corruption being fellow Partners.

The Subject is I think altogether New, and may, for ought I know, be of some Use to those, not yet so well

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well acquainted with the Town, and who want to get into Business; this seems only as yet a Sketch or Foundation for that End; but if the World should go on and improve this Way, it may in time, become as much, or more, a real Art and Study to get into Practice, as the real Study of the Practice of Physick is in it self.



T H E



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A R T

Of getting into

Practice in Physick, &c.

S I R,



E
I N C E you desired my Opinion of the Method at present, of getting into Business in Physick here in *London*, and that you are (you say) resolved to get into Practice (if possible) *cout que cout*. I have accordingly here laid down my Observations on that Head, very necessary for that purpose, and which may I hope, be of Use to others

others, as well as you ; so that different Persons, Circumstances, &c. may chuse those Parts in particular which Suit them best.

As to the Foreign Physicians who come to Practice in *London*, whether *Italians*, *French*, or *Germans*, I leave 'em in some Measure to their own Countrymen, to take Care of them; seeing these Observations may be more particularly useful to those of our own Country, whether *English*, *Scotch* or *Irish*; which last two may be considered as Country Physicians. Those who have been bred at *Oxford* or *Cambridge*, will not be in so much want of our Directions, as you foreign Graduates, and Country Physicians, seeing they acquire there a substantial Acquaintance to Support them in *London*, &c. nor is it our Business here to take Notice how much, or how little they improve in those learned Places, even tho' without Hospitals, &c. since ingenious Men may by Application attain almost to any Thing, even in the Mountains of *Wales*, or Highlands of *Scotland*; but real Improvement being very unnecessary to the present Purpose; I therefore leave it, to talk to you of getting into Business.

T H A T

THAT which gives me great Hopes of you, is your Resolution to go on, and to brush into Practice at all Hazards. Monsieur De Rochf. observes, that there is nothing impossible, if we have but Resolution and take the right Way to it. Besides you know *Audaces fortuna juvat*; and therefore above all Things, let me as a Friend, advise you to take care of studying or endeavouring to know much in this Way, since that will render you timorous and cautious, and consequently keep you back in your Practice; besides that, the more you search the less you will be satisfy'd, and when arriv'd at the Top of all, you may with *Solon* conclude, that all your Wisdom (comparatively with real Knowledge) is in knowing nothing: Whereas, if you only *Skim* the Surface, you will go boldly on, and fancy your Knowledge ten Times more than what it really is. Thus then the great and principal Thing you ought to be qualified with, is the *formula Prescribendi*, for Form is now the main Chance, whether in Law or Physick, and without that, there is nothing to be done; this is in Business, the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the All in All; some will succeed and some won't, 'tis hit or miss, Luck's all; you are paid go which Way it will.

AND now as you are just arriv'd in Town, without having had the Benefit of establishing an Acquaintance at *Oxford* or *Cambridge* among the Nobility, Clergy, &c. and an absolute Stranger here, without the Assistance of Dissenting Teachers, Relations, old Women, Nurses, Children or Apothecaries: The first Thing then I am to advise you just now upon your Arrival, is to make all the Noise and Bustle you can, to make the whole Town ring of you if possible: So that every one in it may know, that there is in Being, and here in Town too, such a Physician. It signifies but little which Way it be, so it be done, and that your Name be known and heard of, for that is half in half, since no one lends to consult him, they have not heard off, that being a Crime sufficient not to have been talk'd off; whereas if accustomed to your Name, or that it has been heard of in Town, you are then a fit Person to be called to the Sick. Thus the famous R——f, 'tis said on his first Arrival, had half the Porters in Town employ'd to call for him, at all the Coffee-houses, and publick Places, so that his Name might be known. A very famous Oculist has likewise freely told me, that he must starve, did he not frequently put himself in the publick

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lick Prints ; but as this is not so fashionable with Physicians, so you may take the other ways to it. I could mention you some who got into Business in Physick by writing Poetry, some by Divinity, others by Politicks, &c. But should you have an itching to make your Name known by Writing a Book in Physick now so customary: I would Advise you to chuse the Subject by which you think you will get most Money, or that which may bring you into the most general Business, as Fevers, Small-Pox, &c. For in those, some must always live, some dye, 'tis a hard Matter to tell; when right, or when wrong; write which way you will, 'tis disputable ; but certain it is, that the World in general (for you have little to do with particular Criticks) readily conclude, you certainly understand that which you write about. The Method of Writing, if in your Frontispiece, you address not your Book to some great Man, is to Club with some other Physicians ; and thus by way of Letters, to commend each others good Practice, and so to support and make each other Famous. But above all Things, take particular Care, let the Subject be what it will, that the Words be well chose ; so to make up an elegant and florid Speech, since you have ten

to one that mindes the Language more than the Sence, as Mr. *Pope* well observes,

*Others for Language all their Care express,
And Value Books, as Women Men for Dress;
Their Praise is still,—the Stile is excellent;
The Sence, they humbly take upon Content.*

AND next then I would advise you, what e're the Subject be you write on (if uncommon the better) rather to write, so as that no Man can make any Thing of it, so as neither to make downright Sence, or Nonsense thereof, then otherwise; because thus none of the Profession can well lay hold of you for any particular Part: Or, if they should, there is Room for you to defend it, being as easy to be understood one Way as t'other. This is that Method I commend, which Mr. *Lock* observes to be possible enough for one to write a tolerable Discourse of, well chose, and well joined Words; which nevertheless, in the whole, makes not up any real Sense, or intelligible Meaning. Thus I will suppose a Man to write or Discourse of Sleep, now if writ in this manner, it is ten to one, but that it will make all who read it fall asleep, and con-

consequently, what can be better said upon the Subject.

THE next Thing I am to advise you, is to make it your Business to get acquainted, and chiefly to keep Company with old Women, Midwives, Nurses and Apothecaries. Since these will still be entertaining you in the Way of your Business, and as the Old Ladies, &c. are most subject to Ailings, so they will still be acquainting you with the same; and consequently, you are to make the most of it, and never to neglect or make slight of the least Complaint; and thus you will gain the Reputation of being both careful and skilful; whereas otherwise your Care and Skill may be suspected, as well as your Affection. These other Guardians we have mentioned, will second, and be assisting to you at the same time, whilst you are to take particular Care to be obliging to them in their Way, and so accordingly to promote their Business, as well as they yours. Your good *Methodus Prescribendi*, will gain you great Reputation, with those of the *Pharmaceutic* Business, particularly your Prescriptions being both orderly and full, let the Success be what it will.

THUS

THUS if out of Business, or that Business slackens, you are to visit some of these, or your elderly Ladies, or former Patients, &c. who will readily talk to you of Business, either for themselves or others, for People are commonly most ready to talk to their Company, on that which they think their Company understand the best, or otherwise are so complaisant, as to talk to their Friends of their Interest; for I would suppose you to have insinuated yourself into their Friendship. Besides that, the very seeing you now and then, may put them in the Minde of that, which otherwise they might forget, or naturally go off of it self, without your Assistance, and thus accordingly miss the Reputation you might have gained by such an Opportunity.

THE Old and the Simple, the Riotous, the Whimsical and the Fearful are your most proper Company, and who will provide you with most Business, there being far less to be got by the Wise and Sober, who are much more rarely ailing. But then you will perhaps tell me, that such like Physicians will be the most proper to please and keep Company with such, since *Simele Simeli Gaudet*. If so, then I can
only

only say, that those probably will stand the fairest for Business; and if you are so Wise or Unwise, as not to ply, bend and truckle to their Humours, I doubt you will be in danger of having less Business: Or otherwise, if you would still continue, and be esteem'd very Wise, Sober and Grave, you should then learn most obsequiously to fawn and sooth Man, Woman and Child, since few else will thrive well, unless blest'd with a little Wit, in which Case, they may be allow'd a little more Liberty.

'Tis true, there are again Ways and Means to be used to the gaining (by good Address) a Reputation in the World, as by common Fame (which tho' frequently fallacious) yet will nevertheless have the certain Effect of making you universally known, and ushering you into Business, which is all you Desire; to this End, the making Friends for some publick Lecturship is not amiss, which serves for a Feather in your Cap, by which you become known, and so taken Notice of for a fine Fellow; and thus you have an Opportunity of haranguing your Auditory, which tho' it should be but mobbish or trifling, yet may serve to make a Noise, and so gain your Point. As to what you read or say to them, it matters not much;

much ; if from the more Musty and antient Author, the better is the Authority ; if from the more Modern, the more fashionable it will be : And thus consequently you will either be esteemed a very learned, or at least a very ingenious Gentleman.

AND now, if after this you can possibly, whether by slight or might, raise such a Stock of Friends, as to introduce you to an Hospital *Tasair & fait*, your Business is then done for Life, be your Success, what it will.

BUT as there is not Room for all in this Way, so there are other Ways and Means by which others Succeed well, as by Matrimonializing with some Old, or other Rich Maid or Widow ; especially, you not being too Old, yet fit for Business, so as to be vigilant, and to follow it closely, for this sets you in a clear Light, and Capacitates you to live in the Way of the World, People generally being employ'd in Proportion to the Way they live. If your Wife should happen to mind Business in her Way, it will certainly also encrease yours, for many good Reasons, as increasing your Friends and Acquaintance, &c. And this is the chief Thing you Aim at ; nor ought you

you to take amiss what is subservient to that, or that each mind their own proper Business, since it will be hard for you to mind both well.

THIS Observation may not only hold Good with you in Physick; but even also in Midwifery or Surgery, Pharmacy, &c.

IF with this you should think proper to set up your Equipage, it might not be amiss, as also in purchasing and heaping together a Mountain of Books, 'tis no great Matter, tho' you should have the same Piece ten Times over; or whether you ever read one of them. And if to these you should add a Heap of any Thing, or every Thing, you will then accordingly be judged to understand every Thing, and acquire the Reputation of a very Learned and Ingenious Gentleman; for these Things will serve to gather People together to stare, as at a High-German Raree-Show, or as Children at a Toy-Shop; and the more Higle-pigledy they lye, Natural or Artificial, False and True, the more Marvelous they will appear to your Spectators.

THE entering into Combinations, Clubs, and Societies, are also of great Use, as likewise the acquiring of many different Titles by such like Means, which serves as excellent Trappings, to usher or forward you in Business.

As to your Principles or Opinion, Religious or Politick, I believe to thrive Well in Business, it may not be amiss to let them swim with the Tide, especially when fashionable: Or, otherwise change Hands as you find Business directs you; but above all, let not your Fingers be Sacrilegiously defiled; but be very gentle in taking Fees of the Clergy, of whatsoever Sect or Opinion.

As to *Nostrums*, I cannot much encourage you to Trade in these, if you would propose to get universal Business; for tho' they may serve to make you known at first, particularly in such a Way; yet it will not promote general Business, but on the contrary; I therefore rather would advise you to Court, Follow and Chime in with the Chief in Play, and if luckily a noted Practitioner should drop, do
you

you be as sure and ready to get into his House, as he is into his Coffin.

I have already observed to you, that People are generally employed in Proportion to the Manner they live in, especially if once a little known; for the employing of many Artificers, Tradesman, &c. you not only become more known; but they also Support and Employ you: Thus if you get much, you must spend much; and if you spend much, you will readily get much, particularly if spent in a proper Way, and once a little known. *Don Quevedo* is of Opinion, that the best Way to run into Business, is to run into Debt, because your Creditors will employ you to get paid; as to putting this Experiment in Practice, I shall rather choose to leave it to your own natural Genius to direct you therein, then much to perswade you thereto, since there may be danger, should it not succeed. But if you shall tell me that this seems even at best, to be little better then working for a dead Horse. I can only tell you, that if you have Ambition, and will live great, and be at the Top of Business this is the High Road to it, and probably much of this may also be

be observed in the other Affairs of human Life.

THUS from what has been Hinted, if you make it your whole and sole Application to get into Business, without turning to the Right or Left, and to stick at nothing; but to take all Ways and Means thereto, you may indeed, not only attain to a good Share of that, but even also almost to any Thing; but if on the contrary, you either spend a great Part of your Time in private or publick Pleasures: Or that you Love Retirement, Spend much of your Time in other Studies, &c. you must then consequently expect but little or no great Business, being great Pleasure and great Profit in Business, do but rarely accompany one another, since as the Proverb is, we cannot have our Cake and eat our Cake.

IN short, you are to consult your own natural Temper, what Suits you best, and what you best like; if you like hurry of Business to get Money, and not to take much Diversion, you may, as we have observed, attain to that, or any Thing, taking the right Way thereto.

As to our venereal Merchants or Doctors, Occulists, Secret-mongers, &c. I have no great Occasion to take any great Notice of these to you; besides that, most of them do already pretty well know the most proper Way of introducing themselves into Practice. So that I shall leave them to their own Stock, their Gratis, or other Pamphlets, News, Books, Bills, Pills or Ballads, &c. Or otherwise to their Patients, Testificats, Grants, or Honours, from all the Kings of Europe or Sovereign Princes of *Italy* or *Germany*, &c.

To these Hints, I must observe to you, that Dancing and Dressing well are not such slight Accomplishments to introduce a young Physician into Practice, as you may imagine, being it makes him acceptable to the Ladies, and *Beau monde*, his fashionable Gesture, and gentle Manner of feeling a Pulse agreeably, is half the Business; nay that, and a very little else, may in Time, for ought I know, go a great Way towards an Hospital, or other Publick Employ.

IN

As

IN fine, I shall now leave you, may
you live and brush on ; for Business as

*Honour is like a Widow, won
with brisk Attempt, and putting on;
With ent'ring manfully, and urging,
Not slow Approaches, like a Virgin.*

Hudib.



F I N I S.

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